

District Accreditation:

Enforcing Accountability and Promoting Progress

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Let's all agree on words...

“District Accreditation” should not be confused with “School improvement” or “District improvement.”

From the State perspective: District Accreditation is a “birds-eye view” of a district.

Now that we have that cleared up...

Rules Overview

- ARSD 24:43, passed in 2005, implemented in 2006
- <http://legis.state.sd.us/index.aspx>
 - Click on “Administrative Rules” on the left-hand side
 - Type “24:43” in the search box and click “Get Rule”

Highlights:

- Definitions 24:43:01
- Parts of Accreditation 24:43:02
- Warnings, denials, suspension, removal of accreditation 24:43:07

District Accreditation Requirements

Three parts:

1. Timely submission of regulatory checks
 - *October 13, 2006*
2. Creation/maintenance of a “school improvement” plan at every attendance center in district
3. Hosting of an onsite visit

1. Timely submission of regulatory checks

- Personnel Record Forms (PRF) or Student Information Management System (SIMS)
- Some items will be checked manually by a State representative:
 - Immunization records
 - Physical exams for first-year staff
 - Birth Certificates
 - FERPA information letter, etc.

2. ...“school improvement” plan

- Creation/maintenance of “school improvement” plan at every attendance center in district
- Every “attendance center” in a district must be accounted for.

2. ...“school improvement” plan

- Components of SIP, according to ARSD 24:43:01:03:

“... An ‘improvement plan’ is a written document developed by the school district, based on local data... sets forth policies, processes, practices, and strategies... grounded in research and will lead to continuous improvement of student learning...”

2. ...“school improvement” plan

This begs the question... “Don’t a lot of schools have this in place?”

Yes... Many mechanisms for school improvement will suffice for the district accreditation purpose

2. ...“school improvement” plan

- Title I
- Schoolwide plans
- NCLB School Improvement
- NCA
- High Schools That Work
- Making Middle Grades Work
- Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)
- WELSSA (Lutheran Schools)
- Christian Schools International (CSI)
- National Lutheran Schools Accreditation (NLSA)
- Others as they come up

2. ...“school improvement” plan

- Presence of some form of improvement plan will become yearly check on PRF/SIMS
 - This ensures that all schools/attendance centers within a district have some plan in place every year
- Onsite visits begin in the 2007-2008 SY. Some districts may choose to go sooner.
 - Will try to “piggy back” with NCA visits.

2. ...“school improvement” plan

- A representative district administrator will complete a short but thorough online report every fall, starting in the fall of 2007, to ensure that all schools/attendance centers are accounted for having a current SIP.
 - *See example template from online submission website*
- This template is available online at the DOE District Accreditation website.
- SIP should be in place by the fall of 2007, but will NOT be submitted to DOE at that time. They will be discussed at an onsite visit.

District Overview

High
School

Middle
School

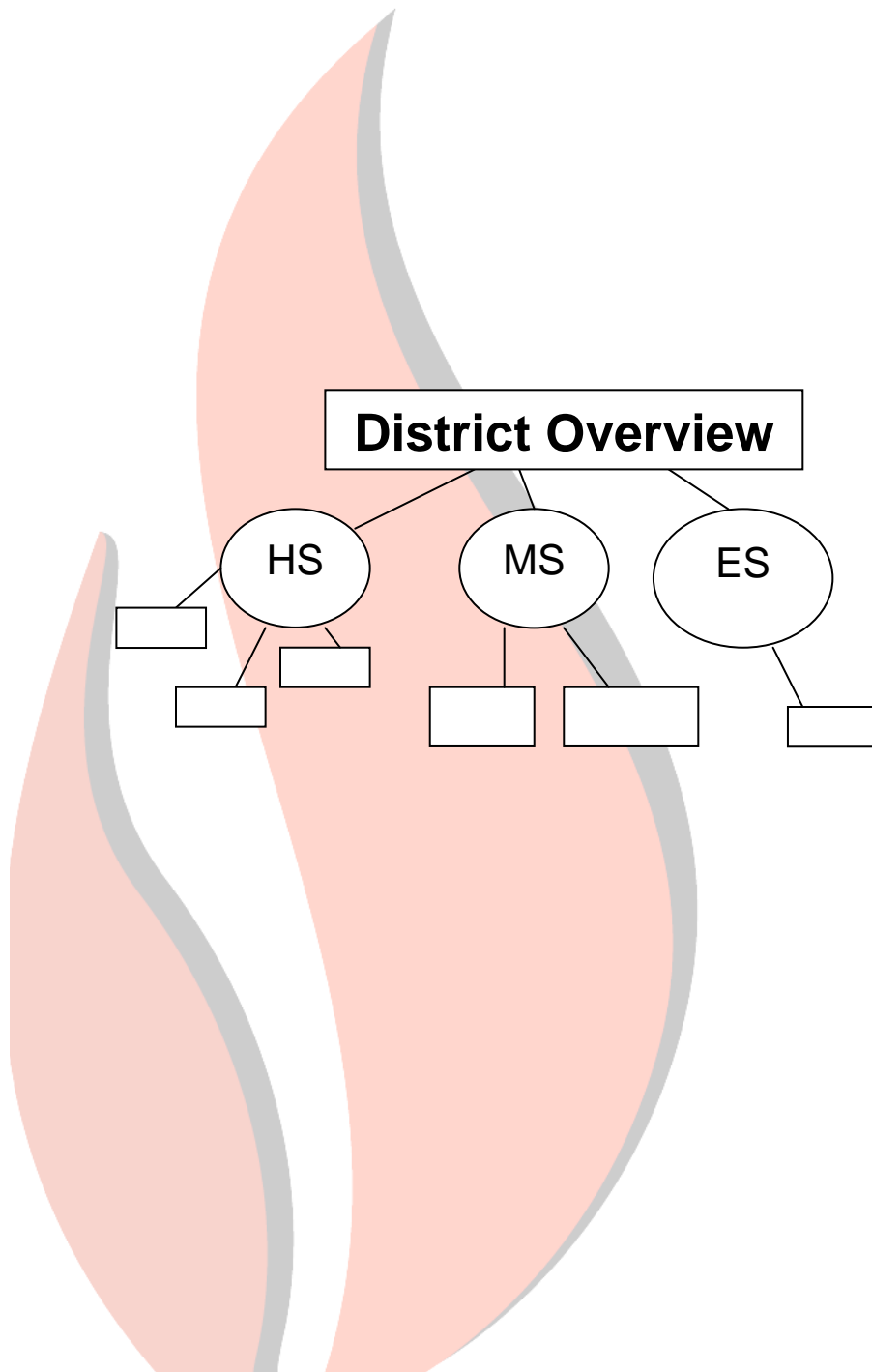
Elementary
School

NCA

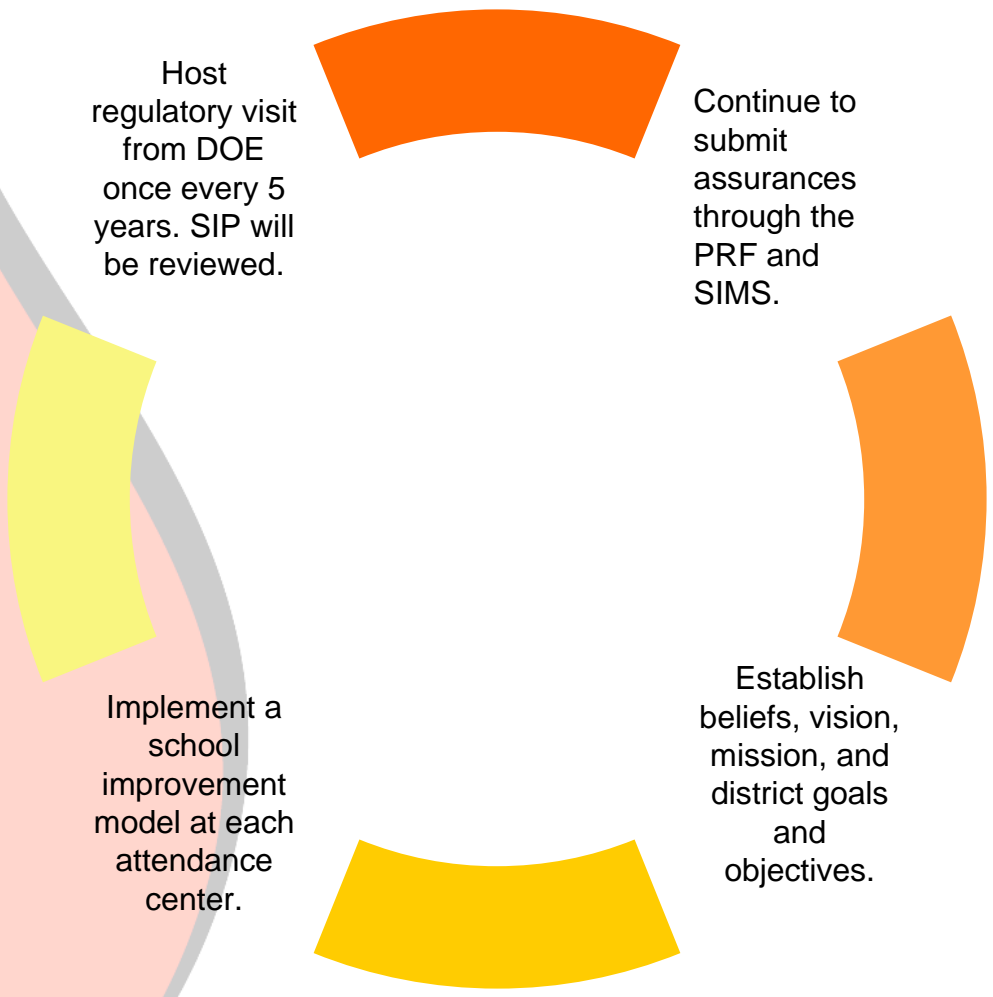
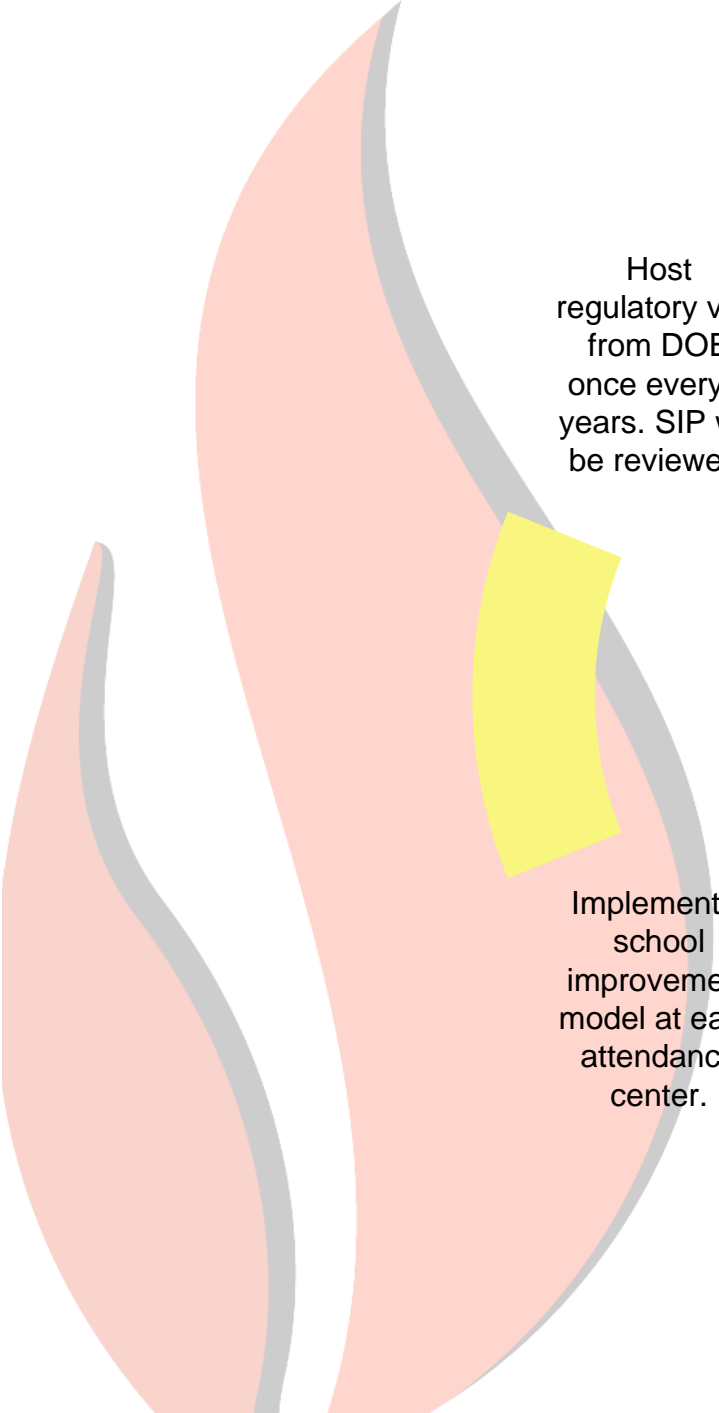
High
Schools
That Work

Making
Middle
Grades
Work

Title I



- The district responsibility is to ensure that each school/attendance center in that district not only has an active model of school improvement in place, but also written belief, vision, and mission statements, as well as measurable district goals and objectives.
- The DOE will go through these plans, as well as the written statements and district goals and objectives at an onsite visit.

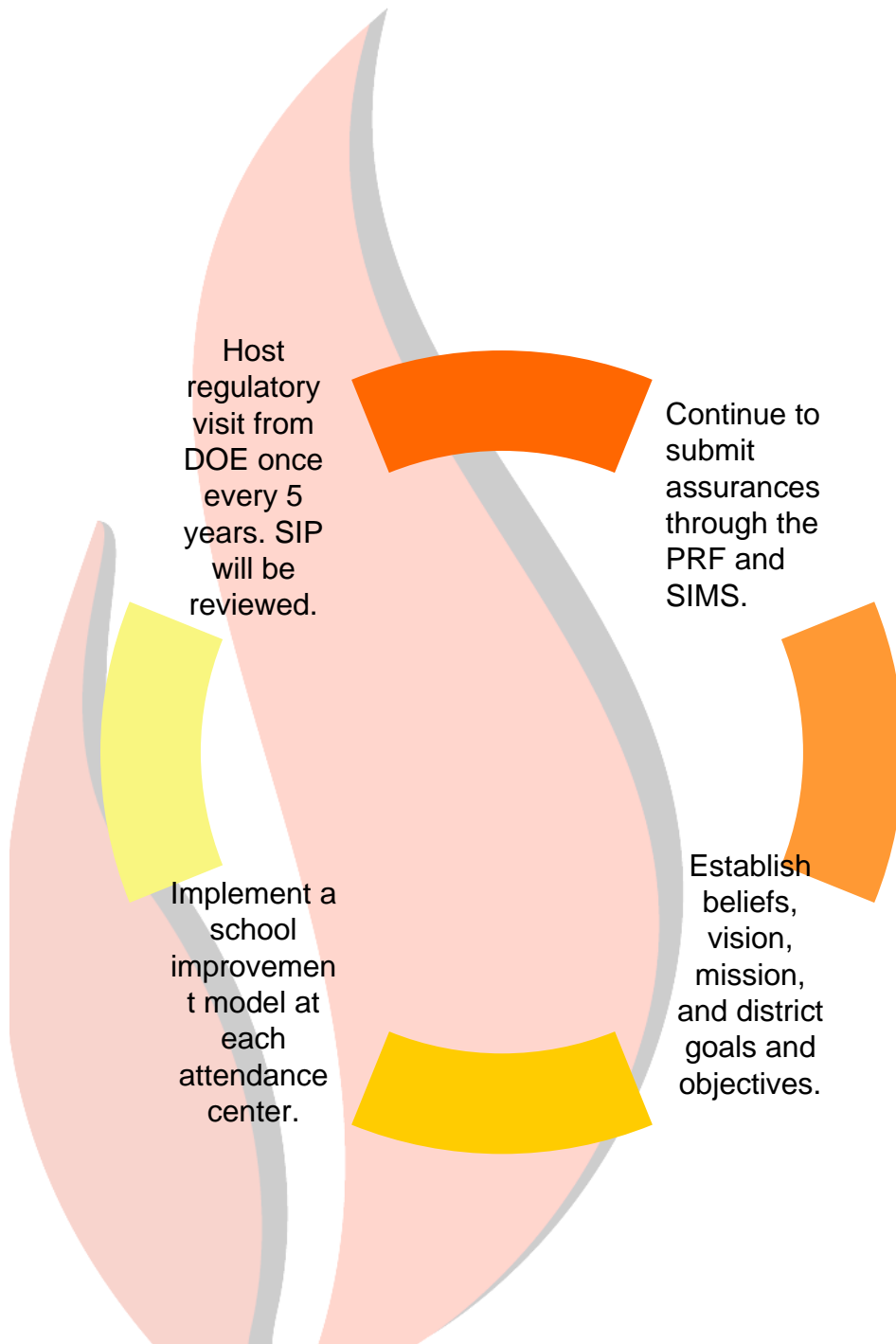


Host
regulatory visit
from DOE
once every 5
years. SIP will
be reviewed.

Continue to
submit
assurances
through the
PRF and
SIMS.

Implement a
school
improvement
model at each
attendance
center.

Establish
beliefs, vision,
mission, and
district goals
and
objectives.



- Acknowledgement of district-wide school improvement models will begin in the Fall of 2007.
- This will be submitted online and will be due on or before the deadline for all data submissions. (Usually around October 15th.)

Annual Accreditation Submission

General Information

School District:

Name of Submitting Administrator:

Position at District:

Submission Date: (07/08/2006)

Verification of School Improvement Plan Status:

In this section, please list each individual school or attendance center in your district and note what continuous school improvement process is currently in place. If you have questions about this form or if feel you need more space, please contact [Jennifer Neuhauser](#) at 605.773.4774.

Your district's beliefs, mission statement and vision statement.

Beliefs:

Mission:

Vision:

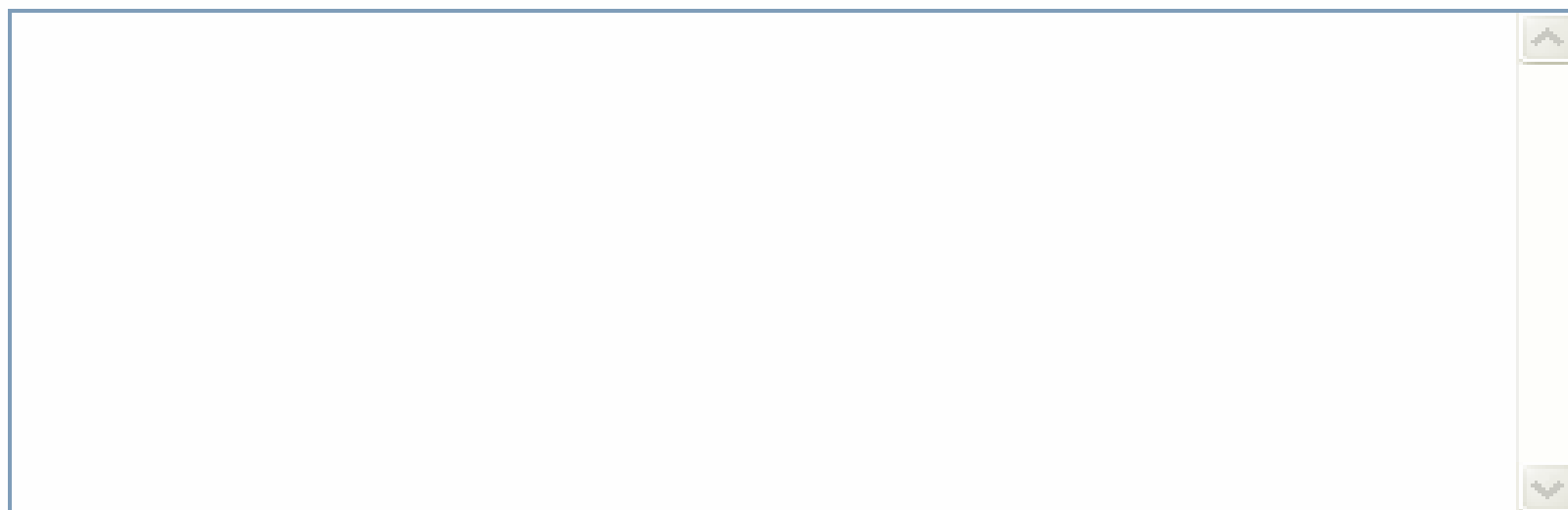
District Student Performance Goals:

Attendance Center Information

Please list all attendance centers, by category, in your district as well as the grades served and the type of school improvement currently in place for each attendance center.

- ▶ Sample Submissions
 - ▶ [Sample 1](#)
 - ▶ [Sample 2](#)

Elementary: ARSD 24:43:01 (12) "Elementary," an educational program for any person classified below the ninth grade or for anyone under the age of 14 before the date established by SDCL [13-28-2](#) who is enrolled in an unclassified nongraded school program. (Note: Please be consistent with your current district structure. For most districts, an elementary campus includes grades KG-5 or 6.)



Elementary: ARSD 24:43:01 (12) "Elementary," an educational program for any person classified below the ninth grade or for anyone under the age of 14 before the date established by SDCL [13-28-2](#) who is enrolled in an unclassified nongraded school program. (Note: Please be consistent with your current district structure. For most districts, an elementary campus includes grades KG-5 or 6.)

Smithville Elementary- Title I

Lewis and Clark Elementary- Schoolwide plan

Middle School: ARSD 24:43:01 (28) "Middle school," a school consisting of any combination of two or more consecutive grades, five through eight; and/or

Junior High: ARSD 24:43:01 (25) "Junior high school," a school consisting of a combination of two or more consecutive grades that must include grades seven and eight and may include grade nine.

Dolly Madison Middle School- Self-directed/State
school improvement plan

Secondary School: ARSD 24:43:01(39) "School, secondary," a school consisting of any combination of three or more consecutive grades, including ninth grade through twelfth grade.

Smithville High School- NCA

Submit Form —>

What and When?

- All districts must have a model of school improvement in place in each school/attendance center by the Fall of 2007.
- All districts must have a written belief, vision and mission statement, as well as district student performance goals by the Fall of 2007.
- Onsite visits will begin in the Fall of 2007.
- No submission is required in the 2006-2007 school year.

3. Hosting an onsite visit

- Every district needs an onsite visit from the DOE
 - Compliance visit
 - Check mandatory submission
 - Audit school/attendance center school improvement plan from an administrative level

3. Hosting an onsite visit

- Every district must host one visit every 5 years
- One-day visit (with exception, possibly for Sioux Falls and Rapid City.)
- One-two person teams, at State expense
- Districts with one or more schools/attendance centers that are NCA accredited will have their DOE site visit coincide with their NCA visit.
- Jennifer Neuhauser will be contacting those districts with recently-reviewed (within the past three years) NCA schools to schedule a short, regulatory visit.

Onsite visit schedule

- Onsite visits will be scheduled by semester, beginning in the Fall of 2007.
- School districts will be assigned a semester in which to schedule a visit with the DOE. Once the district is scheduled for a semester, the district may schedule the specific visit date within that semester with Jennifer Neuhauser.
- Visits will be scheduled on a first come-first serve basis.

What does an onsite visit look like?

- For an NCA school/attendance center within a district, or a whole-NCA district, the onsite visit will be purely regulatory.
- For schools/attendance centers within a district that are only partially NCA, the SIP will be checked at those buildings only.

For non-NCA districts:

- All regulatory items will be checked.
- The SIP will be reviewed with all or a cross-section of the administration at the district, including the Superintendent. The DOE will look for goals and objectives, data and PD that supports those goals, and evidence that those goals have been/plan to be evaluated.
- Should include interviews with faculty and staff, and other optional stakeholders, as well as a tour of district facilities.

Onsite visit schedule

- Districts (public/private/tribal that wish to pursue accreditation) must schedule a visit in the semester that they are noted. Please contact Jennifer Neuhauser if your district needs to pursue some flexibility.
- Districts are separated by ESA region. A map of the ESA regions can be found on <http://www.sdesa.org>. Nonpublic schools should schedule in the semester in which the nearest ESA is scheduled.

Onsite visit schedule

- FA 2007: ESA 1
- SP 2008: ESA 2
- FA 2008: ESA 3 and 6
- SP 2009: ESA 4 and 5
- FA 2010: ESA 7

Nonpublic schools that wish to seek or remain accredited must schedule their onsite visit in the same semester as the ESA in which they would be geographically located. ESA maps can be found at <http://www.sdesa.org>

Support for Schools

- Schools with no form of improvement plan in place may choose use the templates provided by the DOE on the District Accreditation website or seek support from a non-State agency.
- Support could also be sought from a district's local ESA. Please contact your ESA for more information.

In conclusion...

- District accreditation is a “bird’s-eye view” of a district.
- This is very important work but support is available on the DOE website or through your local ESA.
- The first step in all of this to continue to submit yearly regulatory information through the PRF/SIMS.
- The next step is to begin creating/ensuring the viability of SIP for ALL schools/attendance centers in your district, including written belief, vision, and mission statements, as well as district-level goals and objectives.

Contact Information

Please direct any questions to Jennifer Neuhauser, Assistant Director, Office of Accreditation and Teacher Quality.

- jennifer.neuhauser@state.sd.us
- 605-773-4774 (desk)
- 605-280-6260 (cell)